

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 COLOMB 01724 150332Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INR-10 IO-14 MED-03 NSAE-00 PA-02  
HA-05 CA-01 OES-07 ICA-20 CIAE-00 HEW-06 AID-05  
DODE-00 PC-10 TRSE-00 EB-08 /102 W  
-----026613 152348Z /73

R 131052Z APR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0090

UNCLAS COLOMBO 1724

E.OBL 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SWEL, MV

SUBJ: CHOLERA EPIDEMIC IN REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

REF: COLOMBO 1698

1. DEFENSE ATTACHE, COMMANDER PAUL O. CUTCHEN, MET WITH GOVERNMENT OF MALDIVES (GOM) MINISTER OF HEALTH, MRS. MOOMINA ISMAIL, ON APRIL 11 IN MALE. MINISTER GAVE THOROUGH BRIEFING ON EXTENT OF EPIDEMIC, REQUIREMENTS FOR COMBATTING THREAT, AND GOVERNMENT ACTIONS TO DATE.

2. ACCORDING TO HER REPORT, SOME 50 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION HAVE BEEN EXPOSED EXCEPT FOR THE FOUR SOUTHERN ATOLLS. THE MALADY IS AFFECTING 200 ADDITIONAL PERSONS PER DAY. SHE CATEGORICALLY DENIED PRESS REPORTS THAT THERE WERE 2000 DEATHS AND OUR REPORTS SUGGEST TOLL'S NEARER 130. LOCAL-POWERED FISHING BOATS AND JAPANESE ARE ACTIVELY FERRYING SUPPLIES AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL.

3. WHILE MOST OF IMMEDIATE MEDICAL NEEDS ARE BEING MET BY SEVERAL UN AGENCIES (WHO, UNDP, AND UNICEF), MINISTER WAS CONCERNED ABOUT BEING ABLE TO MEET GROWING FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. SHE EXPRESSED WARM PERSONAL GRATITUDE AND GOM OFFICIAL  
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APPRECIATION FOR U.S. OFFER OF ASSISTANCE PARTICULARLY THE PROMPTNESS OF OUR TRANSFER OF \$25,000 WHICH WAS URGENTLY NEEDED TO PAY FOR MEDICINES AVAILABLE QUICKLY IN SRI LANKA AND INDIA.

4. DATT WAS IMPRESSED BY GOM'S AND MINISTER OF HEALTH'S PROFESSIONAL AND INTELLIGENT APPROACH IN QUARENTINING CRITICAL AREAS, PROVIDING MEDICAL SUPPORT AS AVAILABLE, AND GENERAL

HANDLING OF THE EPIDEMIC.  
WRIGGINS

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CHOLERA, EPIDEMICS  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978COLOMB01724  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014